



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

07-OCC-0076

APR 03 2007

Addressees – See Attached

Dear State and Tribal Trustees:

FEDERAL TRUSTEES' PREASSESSMENT DETERMINATION FOR HANFORD

The U.S. Departments of Energy, Interior and Commerce as federal natural resource trustees (Federal Trustees) have considered the available information relative to moving forward in the natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) process at the Hanford Facility. In accordance with the NRDA regulations at 43 CFR Part 11.23(f)(4), the Federal Trustees have determined to proceed with a NRDA under CERCLA that allows for reliance on a process similar to the preassessment screen as the basis for a determination to proceed with an NRDA based on existing/remedial information. This letter serves as a determination by the Federal Trustees that it is appropriate to begin the Assessment Plan Phase.

We believe that moving forward with damage assessment activities and specifically the development of a phased NRDA plan that addresses potential natural resource injuries associated with the currently listed National Priorities List (NPL) areas, is the best step forward in the damage assessment process. A phased assessment process will allow for an iterative NRDA process that is informed by ongoing CERCLA activities and remedial decision-making, including ecological risk assessments. As part of this effort, the Federal Trustees are proposing a "Draft Conceptual Design for NRD at Hanford" that is attached to this letter. We would like to discuss this draft conceptual design at the next senior trustee meeting scheduled in April.

We look forward to continuing the effective dialogue of the Senior Trustee meetings and working cooperatively with the state and tribal trustees as we move forward in the NRDA process at Hanford.

Keith A. Klein, Manager
Richland Operations Office

Ren Lohofener
DOI Authorized Official
for Hanford

Craig O'Conner
Special Counsel
for Natural Resources

Attachment

cc w/attach: See Page 2

OCC:CVS

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Addressees:

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Mr. Stuart Harris, Director
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cc w/attach:

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